

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

MD CONNECTION

Reeve's REFLECTIONS

Weather woes hammer region in 2019

What a summer and fall it has been in the M.D. of Taber. The HUGE hail storm that swept through the southwestern portion of the MD brought with it unprecedented damage to crops and buildings. Any crop in its path was almost completely wiped out. Potatoes, sugar beets, corn and cereal crops were all affected. Producers were doing their best to deal with the aftermath of that storm and get the last of the harvesting done when we were hit with a late September storm that too set records for the amount of snow dumped in September. I want to publically say thank you to our staff who did their best to get roads opened up to the public as quickly as they did. No one was prepared for the amount of snow that came in that storm. It is a huge task to get that many miles of roads opened, and we appreciate everyone's patience. Then the severe cold that engulfed the area and further damaged the crops that were still left to be harvested. It has been a trying year for most producers in the MD. In the non-irrigated areas, a lack of moisture through the growing season was a tremendous stress and severely reduced yields were the norm. With the resignations of Derrick Krizsan (CAO) and Jeremy Wickson (Director of Public Works) earlier this year, we are pleased to announce that Arlos Crofts has been hired as the new CAO for the MD and will begin his duties on January 2nd, 2020. I hope that you will take the time to come and meet Arlos and welcome him to the municipality. He comes



MERRILL HARRIS, REEVE

to us from the Town of Redcliff where he is presently serving as the CAO. The position of Director of Public Works has been filled by Stu Webber who joined us on November 18th. Please welcome him to our municipality. Perhaps a roadside chat will happen and you can express any concerns with roadway grading and gravelling. As was mentioned in the last Reeves reflections, our municipality is not immune to the economic situation happening in our Province. The downturn in the Oil and Gas sector has had a huge impact in our MD and all counties and MD's throughout the province. Many councils in the province have severely cut services to their residents as the economic realities have been realized. To date we have been cautious in our approach, but realize that cost cutting will be necessary to keep our budget in balance. The potential loss of more tax revenue from the oil and gas sector will have a huge impact on our budget. Approximately 70% of our tax base comes from that sector, and when it is hurting, our revenues will follow suit. The Province of Alberta has initiated a measure of tax relief for shallow well gas producers by reducing the education property tax portion of property taxes. It is expected that this measure will provide \$23 million in support to the industry. As we go in to budget preparation season, we will be mindful of you the ratepayers, and do all we can to find the savings needed internally to minimize any tax increase.

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MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TABER

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We're On the Web:
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HALO facing financial hardship

■ *Reeve's Reflections continued from Page 1*

It is great to see the progress of the Federated Coop Limited fertilizer distribution center east of Purple Springs. This is a great addition to our Municipality. It is also great to see the progress being made on the Solar projects in the Vauxhall area. Renewable energy projects, (Solar and Wind) are in the forefront as the MD has lots of sun and also enough wind (too much at times) for these types of projects. We have had numerous inquiries from companies looking for opportunities to set up their business in the area. Finding the best location, close to the needed services is the challenge. Economic development and attracting new business to the MD is one way we hope to make up for the downturn in the oil and gas sector.

Progress is being made on the drainage projects south of the Town of Taber, known as the west Township Eight Range Sixteen Project. We have had excellent cooperation from the affected landowners in getting the right of way necessary for this project and we are in the final stages of engineering and water act approvals to get this project tendered out for construction. The larger Southern Regional Storm Water Drainage Project is still on going. We have met with Local Members of Parliament to explain the project and are meeting with Local MLA's and ministers in the coming months to explain the project to them and the benefits of this large scale project to all of Southern Alberta. Benefits of this project accrue from Cardston to Medicine Hat.

We continue to support and lobby the government for HALO (Helicopter Airlift Operations) out of Medicine Hat. Many areas in our municipality are not serviceable from STARS out of Calgary due to distance. Halo is in serious financial jeopardy and may have to cease operations due to lack of funding. This important rescue service should be funded by Alberta Health Services as an important and essential part of the medical service provided to all Albertans, not just those

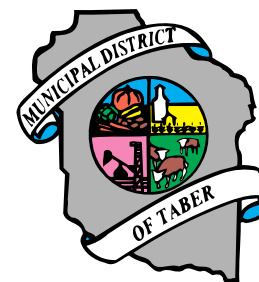
in the larger centres who are within flying distance of Stars. Each and every citizen in the municipality should contact their MLA and discuss the importance of keeping this service viable and in flight for your life. You never know when this service will impact you or someone you know.

Everyone waited for the provincial budget to be delivered and to find out what impacts the provincial budget will have on the municipal operations. A few items of interest for the MD is the elimination, after 2022, of the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI), the Basic Municipal Transportation Grant and the City Charter Fiscal framework. It is being replaced with the Local Government Fiscal Framework, which has funding of \$860 Million with \$455 million split between Edmonton and Calgary and \$405 Million for other municipalities. Our MD had been receiving between \$2.5 and \$3.5 million annually. This money has been spent on road building/rehabilitation, equipment purchases. We will have to see exactly where this funding level will be after 2022 to plan our budgets accordingly. One positive from the budget is the doubling of the Gas Tax that is transferred to the MD in the amount of \$395,620 in 2019. We expect the 2020 allocation to double to \$791,240.

Our MD has been selected as one of 20 across the province to start an Ag plastics recycling program. Items such as grain bags, twines etc. can now be brought to one of our landfill stations for proper recycling of these items. More information is included in this newsletter.

The Rural Crime Watch program is up and running up in our Municipality. As we all look out for one another and report anything suspicious, we can have an impact on the amount of crime in our area.

On behalf of council, I sincerely hope you are able to weather the storms that we have been hit with this year. We also wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with your friends and family.



New director of Public Works



Hi!

My name is Stuart Weber, my friends call me Stu. I look very forward to serving the MD of Taber in my role as Director of Public Works. I am a front line, hands on certified Civil Engineering Technologist with proven ability in county road construction and maintenance, shop operations and project and fiscal management.

My passion for heavy equipment started in my early years as a Finish Grade 627F Scraper Operator for the County of Paintearth. Since then, I have worn both the boots of a Heavy Equipment Operator during 12 hour night shifts and the hard hat of a Supervisor collaborating alongside Engineers and Operational Teams to ensure safe, on-time, on-budget project results.

Growing up on a farm in rural Alberta has given me a strong work ethic, awareness of quality and safety control, excellent interpersonal skills and many leadership opportunities. As a father, I am proud to be able to raise my own kids to have country roots and to enjoy being part of an agricultural community.

When asked to write a little something about myself, it is always easy to touch upon my work history. And although that is a big part of who I am, I am also a family man. Married for over 13 years to my lovely wife, Deanna, we have been blessed with 6 amazing kids and, our claim to fame, Sven, our St. Bernard chum. Sometimes the most honest way to see yourself is through the eyes of your family. And so I share a little something, written by Deanna, from a memory book she created for our eldest son, Ivan. It is entitled Life Lessons I Learned from My Dad (that would be me!). I look forward to meeting all of you! Enjoy the read:

Life Lessons I Learned from My Dad, Stu

(quoted from Ivan Weber's Family Memory Book)

Value your family. Pray together. Play together.

Enjoy the outdoors.

Have fun. Be silly.

Eat meat.

Knowledge speaks. Wisdom listens.

Work hard.

Be present. Be patient. Be yourself.

Look where you want to go.

Leave some things for the stars.

Enjoy the journey...God's got this!

RENUWELL PROJECT

Stakeholder Consultations Update

For most of the 20th century, the oil and gas industry brought jobs and prosperity to Southern Alberta. However, in recent years, declining production in these conventional fields has left a legacy of inactive and abandoned infrastructure throughout the rural communities. At the same time, the rapid increase in renewable energy development requires land and competes with traditional agricultural uses. In response to this situation, RenuWell Energy Solutions has been working with the M.D. of Taber to explore using abandoned oil and gas sites for small scale distributed solar generation. This approach takes advantage of the existing leases, powerlines and roads that are needed for solar development. At the same time, it reduces costs for lease reclamation and relieves competition for agricultural lands.

With funding provided by the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre, our team has been consulting with landowners, the irrigation community, utilities, oil and gas companies, regulators and renewable energy developers to understand how these problem sites can be turned into community-owned, small scale solar projects. Between March 13 and May 31, 2019, with advice and support from the leadership of Action Surface Rights Association, we spoke at 6 related events and hosted 5 public open houses across the MD of Taber. Overall, we presented our concept to about 400 people.

Beyond conversations, about 20 people participated in an in-depth survey which found:



- 93% of respondents replied that abandoned well clean-up should be a high government priority
- 86% are in favor of the MD of Taber continuing to support renewable energy projects
- 83% are interested in having a solar project on their land (33% strongly and 50% moderately)

There was also great interest in possible ownership models:

- 92% were interested in local community ownership with partners sharing the risks of small generation systems to gain taxation revenue from abandoned wells.
- 91% of respondents were interested in learning more about cooperative ownership with other landowners and neighbors.

A common concern was raised about maintaining the agricultural land base in the face of large utility-scale solar projects. This concern has been largely relieved due to our preference to re-use existing leases which



are located in lower productivity areas like pivot corners or tame grassland.

In speaking with landowners and reviewing the survey responses, most see the project as potentially positive (73%), while none thought it was likely to be negative. Also, given the difficulties in lease remediation for food crops, many responded that small-scale solar and long-term bioremediation could provide the best possible way to create economic opportunities for landowners (providing electricity to their operations or selling to the grid) while the land is in recovery.

On November 5th, the MD of Taber and RenuWell team hosted a public meeting at the Heritage Inn to present the results of our public consultations to date.

We would still like to answer questions and to listen to any thoughts or concerns you may have. The short on-line survey will also continue to be available with a draw prize for participation, as we know your time is valuable. Thank-you for your input!

<http://bit.ly/RenuWellPublicSurvey>

The Alberta Utilities Commission also hosted discussions on November 6 in Taber on the Small Scale and Community Generation Regulation that came into force January 1, 2019. For more information, please refer to: <https://engage.auc.ab.ca/smallscalegeneration>



TAX INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN (TIPP)

WHAT IS THE TIPP?

TIPP (Tax Installment Payment Plan) is a monthly tax payment plan that allows taxpayers the option to make manageable, convenient, budgeted monthly payment installments for property taxes by pre-authorized bank withdraw on the 15th of each month, rather than a single annual payment.

HOW DOES TIPP WORK?

Upon enrollment in TIPP, monthly payment installments will be calculated by dividing the prior year's tax levy by the remaining months in the calendar year. Once the current year's tax levy have been applied to the tax roll the remaining monthly installment amounts shall be calculated by taking the actual current years' tax levy, subtracting the prior monthly installments that have been received to date (if any), and dividing by the remaining months in the calendar year.

You will be notified on your tax notice of the total amount of installments paid to date and the new installment amount required for the remaining payment in the year, the last being December 15.

All previous years' taxes and penalties, if any, shall be paid in full prior to being eligible to entering the plan.

Outstanding taxes for property tax rolls that are part of TIPP will not be subject to the 5% penalty applied to current taxes outstanding after November 15th of each year, unless the conditions stated in Bylaw #1915 and Agreement are not fulfilled by the Taxpayer.

HOW DO I APPLY AND WHEN CAN I START TIPP?

Taxpayer's may enter into TIPP at any time prior to July 1st for payment of the current years' tax levy. Application made after July 1st will be for the following tax year and installments will begin the following January. A void cheque or Bank Information EFT Form from your financial Institute must be attached to your application.

Applications are available at the Municipal District of Taber Administration Office or online at www.mdtaber.ab.ca.

WHAT IF I CHOOSE TO CANCEL TIPP?

Taxpayers may cancel TIPP at any time upon fifteen (15) days written notice. All taxes shall then become due and payable in accordance with the Municipality's Tax Penalties Bylaw.

12% PENALTY ON ALL UNPAID TAXES

All property taxes remaining unpaid after December 31, 2019 will be subject to a 12% penalty on January 1, 2020

Options for payment are:

- Cash, cheque or debit at the Municipal Office 4900B – 50th Street Taber, AB during office hours (8 am - 12 noon & 1- 4:30 pm)
- Online banking (your 10 digit roll number is your account number)
- Drop box outside the main entrance of the Administration Building (4900-50 Street, Taber)
- Canada Post - payments sent in the mail must be stamped with a Canada Post date stamp of no later than December 31, 2019



It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.



More than half of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles.



More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.



The top 3 days for home candle fires are **Christmas Day, New Year's Day** and **New Year's Eve**.



Keep candles at least **12 inches** away from anything that burns.



Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous.

On average, **1 of every 45** reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in death.



A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes **1 in every 4** winter fires.



Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.



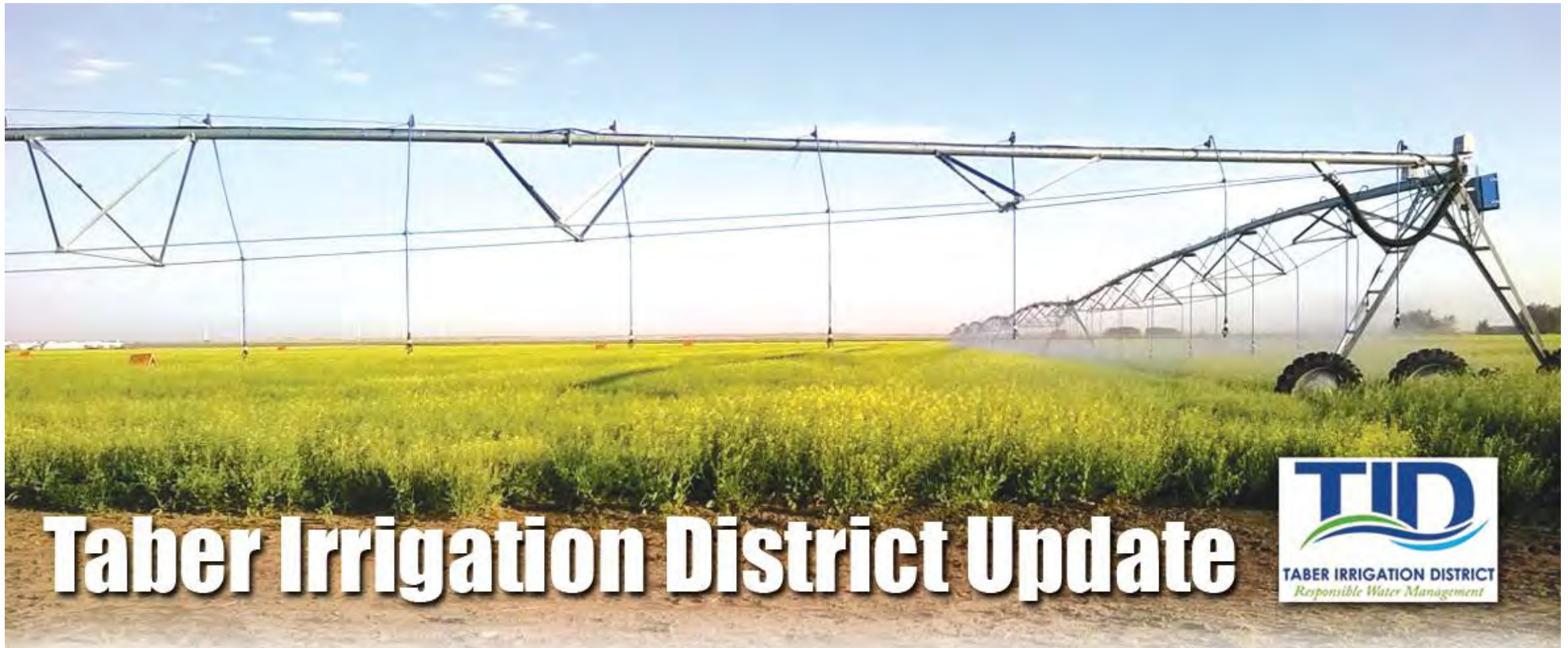
Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet away** from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.



Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and www.nfpa.org/winter.



Taber Irrigation District Update

Water Supply Situation

Alberta Environment and Parks Water Management Operations for the southern tributaries did a great job capturing, storing and delivering water through the headworks system while meeting instream river requirements during a challenging 2019 season. The team attending SMRID's operation meetings, including representatives from AEP, SMRID, TID, RID and other invited stakeholders, ensured effective communications toward efficient operation and meeting irrigation district water demands. We could deliver the promised volumes to our water users within an acceptable level of risk through coordination of graduated increases in farm gate allocation as water supply was assured at various stages of the irrigation season. Reservoir storage bottomed out at under 30% late in the irrigation season for several reservoirs, recovering with late September and October precipitation and melt events to levels near last year, somewhat below winter target levels. We are well positioned with reservoir storage for a normal start-up but will be highly dependent on the coming winter snowpack for 2020 allocations.

Project Planning and 2019/20 Projects

TID is in an "up" year for construction in 2019/20 after two years focussed on maintenance and smaller capital cost projects while recovering our Irrigation Rehabilitation Program fund account. There was a 25% cut for the past 2 years that remains in place with the new government. Although not as severe as previously communicated to irrigation districts, future cuts are projected that will further reduce the support of this work. TID will implement our plan to use proceeds from Capital Assets Charges to complete high priority projects and to extend timelines on other projects during this period of fiscal restraint. We have also applied to complete up to five Risk Mitigation – Irrigation Conveyance Management projects and an Emergency Preparedness project funded at 50% through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to be completed by the end of March 2023. This will help us improve efficiencies and

management of our existing works while we save up to rehabilitate our conveyance works.

For the 2019/20 construction season TID will be completing two pipelines associated with the East Horsefly system. The **Lateral 7 East Horsefly Pipeline** will be installed from a new settling pond and gabion wall infiltration system in the SE corner of SW 10-10-15-4, tie into the Lateral 7C East Horsefly pipeline, run north across Highway 3 and the CPR line and east of the Lamb Weston plant to tie into the existing Lateral 7D and 7D1 East Horsefly pipelines near the centre of 15-10-15-4. This will provide weed-excluded water and supplementary pressure to pipelines that are having difficulty meeting minimum delivery standards at design flows. Delivering this flow through a parallel system also frees up capacity in the Lateral 7 canal to keep Fincastle Reservoir supplied during high irrigation demand, and to handle emergency spill during flood events. The **East Horsefly Main Pipeline** will be installed from a new settling pond and gabion wall infiltration system in the SE corner of NE 12-10-15-4, run NE and cross Highway 3 and the CPR line to tie into the existing East Horsefly Main Pipeline downstream. This will provide weed-excluded water and supplementary pressure to a pipeline that will serve an additional 1,600 (approx.) acres. The **Automation Gates and Control** project will tie these two projects together to redirect significant operational spill currently leaving the district through the East Horsefly Drain, to save this in Fincastle Reservoir. The **East Horsefly Main Canal Bank Raising** project is cost-shared proportionally with the landowners that are adding these new acres, to ensure sufficient operational freeboard in the canal. Together these projects will improve the operational efficiency of the East Horsefly system and benefit all TID water users by keeping more water available for use in the district.

Trash in TID Canals

As you complete post-harvest activities remember that you are responsible for any costs to TID associated with cleaning crop debris from our canals. Please keep both your

soil and your crop residue from blowing into our works.

Canal driving banks are TID property and are available for irrigators to use to access your turnout. Please remember to use your M.D. of Taber approach and avoid hauling on our driving banks. Any damages will be repaired at your cost.

TID Notification System

Many TID water users have now benefitted from receiving text and/or email notifications of water start-up date, changes in irrigation allocations, shut-down date, and a couple board-approved initiatives, starting in 2019. We will be making this part of our regular routine to include AGM and other dates and integrate the system into our Emergency Preparedness Plan. We have the ability to select individual reaches of canal and pipeline in our Geographical Information System and send messages to affected water users if there is a service interruption and when we treat the canals with Magnacide H, but you must register with us to be notified. Call our office at 403-223-2148 to register.

Water Use Agreements and Compliance

Thank you to the many household and rural water users, especially in the Village of Barnwell, who have come to see us to obtain the required water use agreements. TID will be reviewing compliance under the Irrigation Districts Act as we have experienced some theft and are working with the RCMP to assist. If you are using irrigation water and are not sure if you have an agreement, please contact us as soon as possible.

Changes to Land, Irrigation System or Point of Delivery

Administration at TID includes a significant amount of work tracking changes in land ownership, irrigation systems / acres and point of delivery. Please make sure to contact our Land Technician, Kyla Ross at the TID office as soon as you can during the planning stages or as early as possible so we're on the same page and potentially meet your requirements more cost-effectively.

South Central Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association

The South Central Alberta Rural Crime Watch Association (SCAR) is here to provide opportunities and resources for citizens to take action in protecting what's most important to them. Together with our local RCMP detachment,

we seek to create a strong awareness and presence of the law within the Municipal District of Taber area. Our vision is to empower and involve each rural resident with the tools to cultivate a safer community for our families and neighbors.

Through a partnership with the Municipal District of Taber, Town of Vauxhall, Village of Barnwell and the Taber/Vauxhall RCMP Detachment, SCAR is part of the South Central Regional Notification System (SCAR



Notify). SCAR Notify is a collaborative effort spearheaded by the Municipal District of Taber to provide rural residents with the latest news, events and emergency alert messages. To register with SCAR Notify go to

<https://mdtaber.ab.ca/>. SCAR will provide further membership information and how to obtain your Alberta Rural Crime watch signs to post on your property in the New Year.

For additional information on the Alberta rural crime watch initiative, please follow this link to the Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association website:

<https://www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca/>

Prairie Grass Facility



"The Prairie Grass cannabis cultivation facility in the MD of Taber is nearing completion of construction and expecting licensing from Health Canada in late 2019. Prairie Grass founders, Olivia Penner and Rebecca Thomson, are the fourth generation to join their family farming operation and their passion to diversify the farm and advocate for cannabis wellness is what led them to expand from farming food to farming wellness.

The cannabis industry is rapidly growing and provides a unique opportunity for growth and development in rural communities. Prairie Grass is excited to continue to be part of the community and to contribute to its success!"



DID YOU KNOW...

Council welcomes MD Of Taber Residents and taxpayers to come ask questions or provide thoughts on matters of public interest.

Council meetings are at 9:00 am (2nd and 4th Tuesdays).

No appointment necessary.

You will be given up to 5 minutes to speak to your elected officials.

Hamlets and Utilities

As we have survived the first two snow events, I am reminded that winter is just around the corner. The days are slowly getting shorter and the nights longer.

With that said, this is just a reminder of what the MD of Taber's Sidewalk Snow Removal Policy is:

Sidewalk Snow Removal Policy

Policy Statement: Municipal District of Taber will establish a snow removal policy guideline on public sidewalks within the communities of Hays and Enchant.

Purpose: To indicate Council's intention of establishing a Sidewalk snow removal is done in order to maintain a standard of safety for the members of the communities that use these sidewalks.

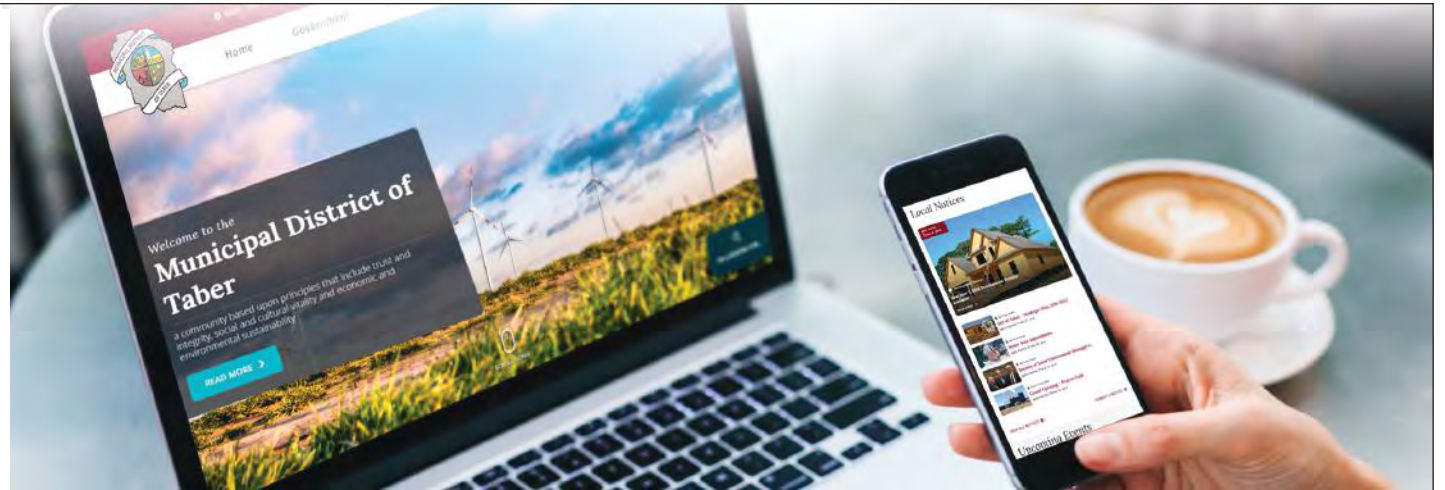
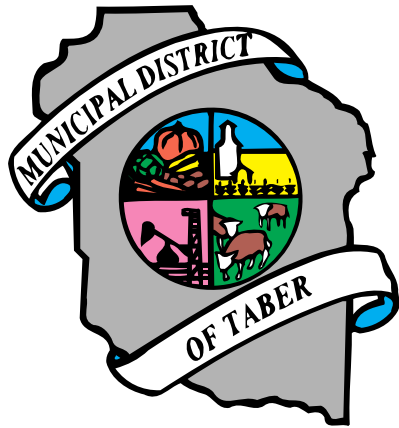
Guidelines

1. Municipal staff will clear snow from sidewalks when the snow is 5 cm or greater.
2. Municipal staff will not clear snow from sidewalks when the wind chill is colder than -18 degrees Celsius.
3. Municipal staff will work during regular business hours as for "Hours of Work Policy" per Municipal District of Taber Employee Handbook
4. If municipal staff feel that objects such as fences or vehicles are too close to the sidewalk and the snow plow cannot pass by safely, then the operator will pick up and go around the object and resume plowing snow on the other side of the object.
5. Where possible snow will be pushed towards the street away from resident's buildings.
6. Municipal staff will not clear out personal driveways from snow that has been left there from plowing sidewalks.
7. Municipal staff are not responsible for damages to items left on sidewalks

Stay safe and warm with the upcoming winter.

Let's hope that Mother Nature is kind to us all.





Municipal District of Taber New Website, Service Request & Smartphone App

www.mdtaber.ab.ca has been rebuilt with an enhanced site design, improved organization of content, and new features including:

Quick Links to Frequently Visited Pages

Online Forms & Applications — * New Service Request module*

* New Smartphone App *

Service Request: an easy way for residents to submit service requests so that we can respond and serve you better. Service Requests provide an opportunity to capture and manage feedback provided by our residents and lead the way to better communication and connecting with the municipality.

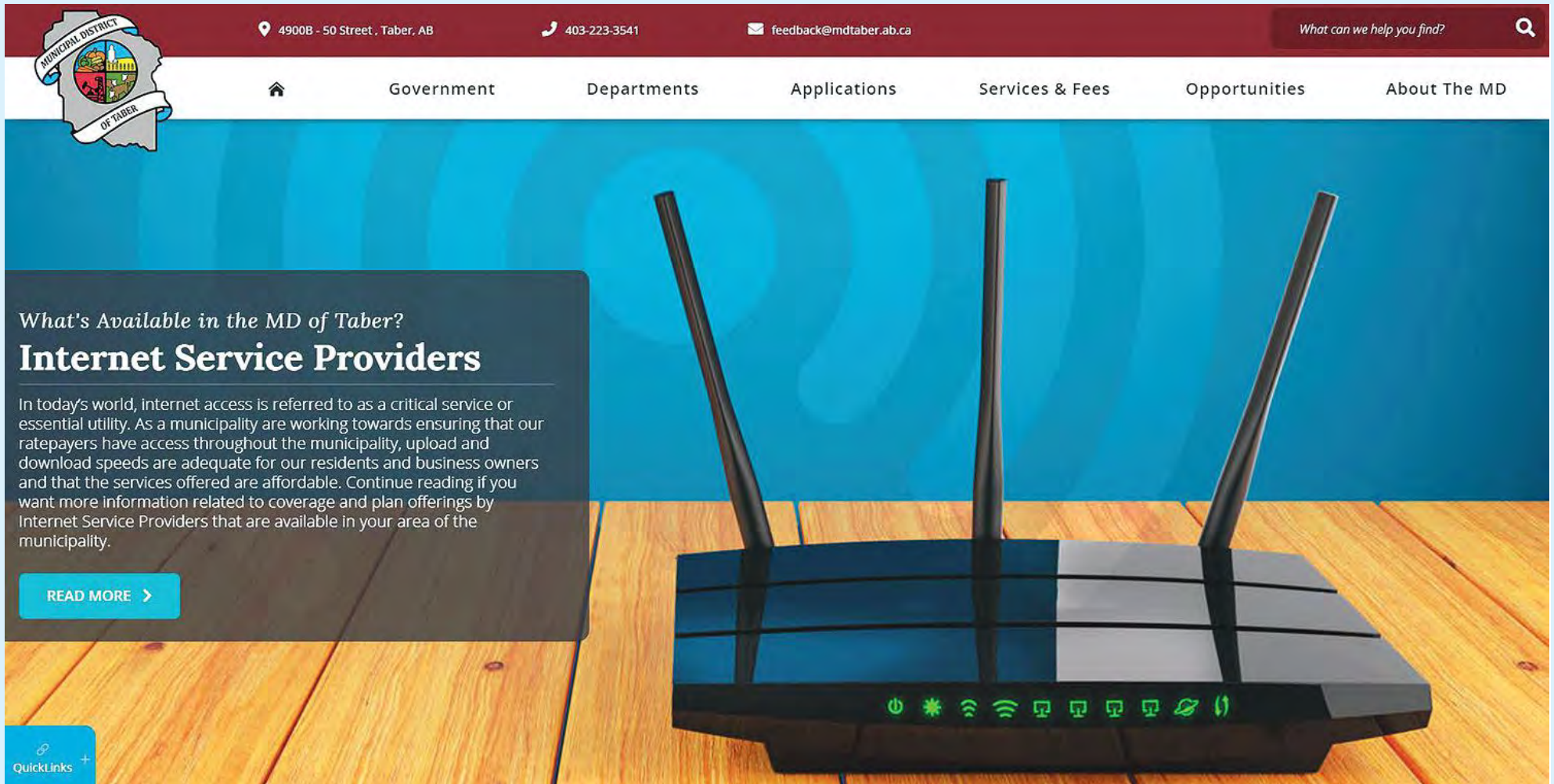
Mobile App: integrates and consolidates frequently used components of the website onto your phone:

- Announcements
- Agendas & Minutes
- Bylaws & Public Documents
- Event Calendar
- Fire Permit Request
- SCAR Registration
- Service Tracker
- Online Mapping

Search “MD of Taber” in your app store to download for free!

www.MDTABER.ab.ca





Rural Broadband - Internet Service Providers - **What's Available in the MD of Taber**

In today's world, internet access is referred to as a critical service or essential utility. As a municipality we are working towards ensuring that our ratepayers have access throughout the municipality, upload and download speeds are adequate for our residents and business owners and that the services offered are affordable. We have compiled a list of Internet Service Providers (ISP) that are available in the Municipal District of Taber and have included some general service information. It is our goal to assist residents and business owners with knowing all options with respect to ISP's that are in your area.

The MD of Taber is continuing to work with private industry and other levels of government to ensure our goal with relation to complete coverage, adequate speeds and affordability is reached. Keep checking our website for additional Information related to rural broadband and ISP's. We are working at developing a complete coverage map for our area that will identify provider cover-

ages, speeds and pricing that are available along with identifying areas that are without service within the municipality.

CCI (Corridor Communication Inc.) Wireless is a wireless internet service provider that currently provides coverage throughout the municipality. CCI Wireless provides both residential and business grade internet services that include internet and phone services. Visit their website for more information on the company, coverage mapping and price plans that relate to your needs. Website <https://cciwireless.ca/>

Xplornet is a wireless and satellite internet service provider that currently provides coverage throughout the municipality. Xplornet provides both residential and business grade internet services that include internet and phone services. Visit their website for more information on the company, coverage mapping and price plans that relate to your needs. Website <https://www.xplornet.com/>

Shockware is a wireless internet service provider that covers a majority of the MD of Taber with a few gaps north of the Oldman River. Gaps primarily exist west of Vauxhall and the Hays area. Visit their website for information on the company, detailed coverage that includes mapping and price plans. Price plans are available by viewing their contract in the "need help?" section of the website. Contact Shockware directly for internet speeds and options related to custom services that they can provide for residential and business customers. Website <http://www.shockware.com/>

Echo Networks is a wireless internet and IT service provider that currently provides coverage to the Town of Vauxhall and immediate area. Echo Networks provides both residential and business grade services to their area. Visit their website for more information on the company and price plans that relate to your needs. Website <http://www.echonetworks.ca/>

Rural Broadband - Internet Service Providers - **What's Available in the MD of Taber**

EID is a wireless internet service provider that currently provides limited coverage to the north east portion of the municipality along the south side of the Bow River. Services are provided from towers in Scandia and Rolling Hills that extend coverage to the South Side of the Bow River by approximately 3 to 5 miles south of the river. EID Net provides both residential and business grade internet services. Visit their website for more information on the company, coverage mapping and price plans that relate to your needs. Website <https://www.eidnet.ca/>

Live Wireless is a wireless internet service provider that currently provides coverage east of the Village of Barnwell and south of the Oldman River along Highway 3 extending past the Hamlet of Grassy Lake. Live Wireless provides both residential and business grade internet services. Visit their website for more information on the company, coverage mapping and price plans that relate to your needs. Website <https://www.livewireless.ca/>

Telus is an internet service provider within the municipality providing copper based solutions that include ADSL and Dial Up as well as wireless 3G\LTE solutions including Smart Hub in certain areas. Visit their website for more information on the company, coverage mapping and price plans that relate to your needs. Website <https://www.telus.com/en/ab/internet/smart-hub?linktype=ge-meganav>

The Axia FibreNet or Alberta Supernet is a fibre network owned by Bell Canada. It connects over 4,200 schools, hospitals, libraries, government and municipal offices in 429 communities across Alberta. Connections exist throughout the municipality within our Hamlets, the Towns and Village that can be used for custom enterprise connections. For more information contact Axia FibreNet. Website <https://www.axiafibre.net.com/>

Additional Resources:
Service Alberta Internet Coverage Search Tool
https://www.servicealberta.ca/WISP_Search.cfm



Regional Notification System

South Central Alberta Regional Notification System

The South Central Alberta Regional Notification System is a regional partnership between:

- Municipal District of Taber
- Town of Vauxhall
- Village of Barnwell
- Taber RCMP
- South Central Alberta Rural Crime Watch

S.C.A.R. Notifications

To provide a timely and consistent approach to emergency and municipal communications. Notifications are grouped by priority consisting of urgent public safety information as well as important municipal information.



Subscribe to the messages you want to receive:

- RCMP - Rural Crime Watch – Urgent Text or Call
- RCMP - Rural Crime Watch - General Email
- M.D. of Taber - Urgent Text or Call
- M.D. of Taber - Website General Email
- Town of Vauxhall - Urgent Text or Call
- Town of Vauxhall - Website General Email
- Village of Barnwell - Urgent Text or Call
- Village of Barnwell - Website General Email

Register Today
www.SCARnotify.ca

Visit our website for additional partnership information and urgent notices

2019 Municipal Property Assessment

- Fall Newsletter -

2019 PROPERTY ASSESSMENT INSPECTIONS

Property inspections will be ongoing for the remainder of 2019. The MD of Taber is aware of new construction and significant renovations due to permitting processes. However, we would appreciate your assistance with demolitions or removals of homes, garages, sheds, or any other buildings and/or changes to use of land and existing buildings. The MD of Taber Assessment Department must verify if a building has been removed prior to December 31 or it will be continue to be assessed, appearing on your 2020 Assessment and Tax Notices. If any changes, such as additions, renovations, removals, demolitions, or changes-of-use (eg. non-residential (business) use to residential use of a shop), have occurred on your property, and you are unsure if the MD is aware of it, please contact the MD of Taber Assessment Department.

Notification of Access & Request for Information

Assessors will be visiting properties throughout the municipality to verify property information for preparing fair and equitable assessments as required by provincial Statute. Assessors carry identification and will present it upon request. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at the MD of Taber Administration Office.

A physical inspection of a property is necessary to collect accurate property assessment information about certain characteristics (such as size) of the land, buildings (houses, garages, shops, etc.), and their uses (e.g. residential, non-residential, farm):

- When the owner/occupant is present: An inspection will include a walk-through of each building as required, and a review of the existing assessment information during the visit for any other information required by the assessor.
- When the owner/occupant is not present: An outside inspection of the property will be completed, verifying or recording the size and other characteristics of all buildings and other structures on the property. The assessor will enter onto the property, not into buildings, when the property owner/occupant is not present. The assessor may also leave a call-back card at the residence's front door, or send a letter, requesting any additional information required to prepare the assessment.

If you receive a call-back card or letter in your front door requesting information on behalf of the municipality, please remember property owners are responsible to provide any information requested to prepare the assessment and tax rolls. Failure to provide the requested information may result in the loss of the right to appeal the assessment or failure to receive notification of taxes owing.



Farmer Pesticide Course

Attending this course allows you to purchase restricted chemical such as Thimet for potato production or Phostoxin for grain bin fumigation. Also aids in obtaining Environmental Farm Plan, HACCP, and CanadaGAP.

Choose one date

November 27, 2019
February 5, 2020
March 11, 2020
April 8, 2020

at the

Taber Legion
5205—48th Avenue
Taber, Alberta
8:30 A.M.

Cost \$40.00
includes lunch and
course manual

Payment must be received
in order to be registered in
the course

Cheques payable to
*Municipal District
of Taber*

Please mail or deliver
registration forms and
payment to:

MD of Taber
4900B—50th Street
Taber, Alberta, T1G 1T2
403-223-3541

FARMER PESTICIDE COURSE
REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Farm/Business Name: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Course Selection: Please pick only one date.

Wednesday, November 27, 2019 O Wednesday, February 5, 2020 O
Wednesday, March 11, 2020 O Wednesday, April 8, 2020 O

Signature: _____

Payment must be received in order to be registered in the course—Cost \$40.00

Cheques payable to *Municipal District of Taber*



Congratulations HUVENAARS FAMILY

- Hays, Alberta -
Farm Family of the Year

The MD of Taber would like to congratulate the Huvenaars family on being selected for the BMO Farm Family Award and representing the municipality at the Calgary Stampede this year.

Going to seed can be a good thing, if you're the 2019 BMO Farm Family for the Municipal District of Taber.

The Huvenaars – Richard and Linda, and their son Carl – have shifted from a wholesale seed operation to a retail one, with Carl taking the lead on the new venture.

"I am more or less the hired man. We

are always here to guide him if he needs it, but we haven't had to do too much of that," Richard said. "It's really grown the past few years, so he must be doing something right."

The story of the farm starts in Holland. Richard's father faced a common problem: too many siblings, not enough farm. As one of eight boys in the family, he had little chance to inherit the farm. So, he emigrated to Canada and settled in the Hays area, along with two of his brothers. (Another brother decided on Tidsdale, Sask.)

"He didn't have hardly any cash in his pocket. He had a lot of help from a farmer in Warner that he worked for," Richard said. "I think he got his first bank loan from the Bank of Montreal to buy a cow. And that was the extent of it. From there, it was labour – and some enjoyment – to build the operation."

Richard joined the family seed business in 1984, farming with his parents and brother. In 1998, his parents retired and the brothers went on their own. His brother went retail; Richard went wholesale. Carl signed on in 2010 and started growing the business. When Richard's brother and sister-in-law retired a few years back, Carl saw the opportunity to shift into the retail market.

Today, the operation works 1600 acres, growing a variety of wheats, barley, beans, canola, flax, sunflowers, alfalfa and peas, utilizing minimum tillage with crop rotation. And they've added a cow-calf operation to the mix.

"We went along for 33 years and then our son comes along and all of a sudden we have 189 head of cattle,"

Richard said. He added that hired man Wayne Doerksen's knowledge and skill with the animals has been invaluable.

"I bought a farm that had a lease allotment with it and a lot of cattle. So, it was go in now or go in never, and I decided to go in," Carl said. "I don't mind it at all. I find it less stress than the seed business."

Carl is responsible for most of the decision making, while Richard runs the equipment and Linda looks after the books. Daughter Christina is also in the farming business, but in Saskatchewan with her husband, Chris DeWinter.

Carl is continuing another family tradition: community involvement. He volunteers with the Hays Fire Department, Hays Civic Centre and the Taber Seed Cleaning Plant. He's also taken over Richard's position on the Prairie Grain Development Committee.

"A big part of where we are now is the help we had from neighbours and friends over the years to get through tough times," Richard said. "Sometimes you run a bit late or are short on time and it seems like there is always someone there to help."



Grain Bag Recycling Pilot Program

Recycling grain bags and twine just got easier through the Alberta Ag-Plastic. **Recycle it!** program

Grain bag and bale twine recycling is now available at the Municipal District of Taber as part of a three-year pilot program aimed at establishing an environmentally sustainable program to recycle agricultural plastics.

Rolled grain bags and bagged twine can be dropped off, free of charge, at the MD of Taber Operations and Maintenance building just west of Taber on Highway 3, municipal address of 1771027. Please call ahead (403 223 3142) to book an appointment to bring in your rolled grain bags and bagged bale twine.

Grain bags should be rolled tightly and secured with twine. Collection bags for recycling twine are available at the MD of Taber Operations and Maintenance building west of Taber also. Please ensure twine is clean, dry and loosely placed in collection bags. This helps keep contamination to a minimum and maximizes the recyclability of the material. Non- program material or material not prepared properly could be subject to additional fees or rejected all together. To find out how to properly prepare your materials for recycling visit www.cleanfarms.ca and click on "more info here" tab
Thank you for helping Alberta build an agricultural plastics recycling program that helps keep our agricultural community clean and environmentally friendly.



Asset Management

Council has continued commitment to Asset Management through Policy and support of Administration Staff to develop and maintain a comprehensive Asset Management Systems.

Asset management is the process of making decisions about the use and care of infrastructure to deliver services in a way that considers current and future needs, manages risk and opportunities, and makes the best use of resources. The infrastructure in our communities is the legacy of a multi-generational investment, made by local, provincial, and federal governments. Increasingly, we are recognizing the value of the investment that has been made in our community infrastructure, and the risks we face by not managing for the long term.

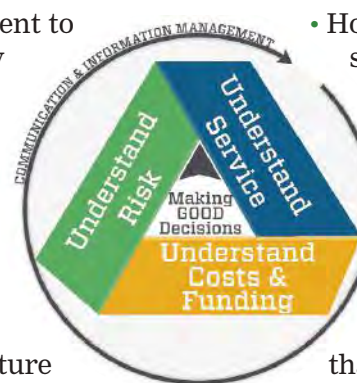
Residents and businesses in our community trust and expect government to be good stewards of the services and infrastructure that they rely on every day. Building resilient communities, with sustainable services, is the ultimate goal of asset management.

Benefits of Asset Management

- Helps to confidently evaluate and communicate trade-offs between service, cost, and risk.
- Provides a defensible method of prioritizing projects and resources.
- Aligns the organization to focus on the things that matter most.
- Helps to decide what infrastructure needs to be replaced or renewed and what the expected useful life is.
- Helps establish how much revenue should be placed in reserve for future infrastructure renewal.
- Helps demonstrate accountability to residents and businesses in the community.

Key Terms

- **Level of Service** is a measure of the quality, quantity, and/or reliability of a service from the perspective of residents, businesses, and customers in the community.



- How wide should the roads be? How short should the grass be? How often should potable water be available? Which roads should be paved/gravelled? How quickly should snow be cleared? Is a bridge required? Response times and adequacy of emergency services?
- **Risk(s)** are events or occurrences that will have undesired impacts on services. Risk = Impact x Likelihood.
- **Costs** are the financial and human resources required through the lifecycle of the asset.
- **Funding** is determining how to pay for the services delivered.
 - Property taxes, Debt, Exchange of assets, User fees and charges, Development charges, Grants, other...

Evaluating Trade-offs and Making Good Decisions

Service, risk, and cost cannot be fully understood in isolation.

Service and Risk Trade-offs

- Accepting greater risk may result in assets not performing as intended. An example is a water main that is allowed to deteriorate, resulting in more breaks, and a lower service level to the community.

Service and Cost Trade-offs

- What level of service can we afford to provide, now and into the future? Naturally, we all want the best, until we understand the associated costs.

Risk and Cost Trade-offs

- Actions required to mitigate asset risks have costs, and decisions need to be made about whether the costs are worth it or whether the risk should be tolerated.

Information sourced from Building Community Resilience Through Asset Management – A Handbook and Toolkit for Alberta Municipalities.



THE BICYCLE. Costs basically nothing. Gets you moving, but not that fast.



THE BUS. Entry level option that gets you where you need to go.



THE CAR. More options for going where you want, but costs more.



THE HELICOPTER. Gets you wherever you want, quickly. Really expensive and special operations skills required. May be excessive if your needs are basic.



New Shelterbelt Establishment Program



The Municipal District of Taber Agricultural Service Board has designed a new program to help farmers with the establishment of a shelterbelt around their yard or fields.

This tree planting program was created to help those who may or may not be working through their Environmental Farm Plan or a spin off version of an environmental farm plan for the crops that each individual farm grows.

Within these farm plans is a section on being good

environmental stewards of the land. Forestation is one of the items that is usually suggested in these sections. Planting trees and shelterbelts around your farm is just one of the ways to be good stewards. Planting shelterbelts has many great functions on your farm. Some of those great functions are soil conservation, protect crops, protect yards, provide wildlife habitat and to beautify the landscape.

The shelterbelt program is delivered through an application process and at a 50/50 cost share between the

MD of Taber and the landowner for the purchase price of the trees.

The MD of Taber offers tree planting for the project and will help with drip irrigation setup if water is available nearby.

The best time to start the planning for next year is now. For more information on this new program or to apply call Jason or Jorden at 403 -223-3142.





Grassy Lake Fire Department

*2nd Annual Candy Cane/
Food Bank Drive*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 2019



Please turn your outside lights on for us Our members and trucks will be out starting out around 6:00 p.m. to deliver Christmas cheer and collect donations for the Taber Food Bank.

Please check the dates to be sure the item(s) are not expired, the food bank cannot re-use expired food.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to the Taber Food Bank Society.



Vauxhall Regional Fire Department

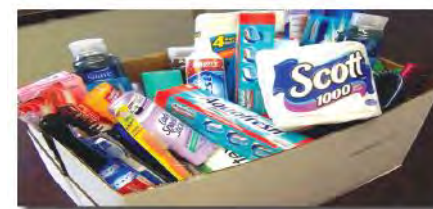
*20th Annual Candy Cane/
Food Bank Drive*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2019

Please turn your outside lights on for us Our members and trucks will be out starting out around 5:30 p.m. to deliver Christmas cheer and collect donations for the Vauxhall Food Bank.

Please check the dates to be sure the item(s) are not expired, the food bank cannot re-use expired food.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to the Vauxhall & Area Food Bank Society.



Personal Hygiene items are also accepted.





M.D. seeking input into Recreation Master Plan from residents

The M.D. of Taber is in the process of finalizing a Recreation Master Plan that will determine how public recreation services should be delivered in the future. Over the next month, residents can provide input and feedback into the findings of the Recreation Master Plan.

Residents access recreation opportunities from various providers including community organizations, municipalities, and private providers. The M.D. of Taber supports many community-based organizations that manage facilities and provide recreation programs and services to residents. The M.D. also operates parks throughout the community that have trails, picnic shelters, ball diamonds, playgrounds, campgrounds, outdoor swimming areas, and other amenities.

During the spring and summer, the community was engaged by the M.D. of Taber to understand recreation priorities for the next five to ten years. Over 340 households representing 1,190 residents participated in a community survey about needs and expectations for recreation. Recreation providers and stakeholders were also consulted to determine how services are delivered and what might be needed in the future.

Some of the findings from the engagement process include:

- Residents value M.D. of Taber involvement in public recreation and having diversity of recreation opportunities available is important to residents.
- Most survey respondents (70%) consider members of their household to be active in recreation pursuits.
- Common types of recreation activities that residents would like to start doing are fitness training, participating in outdoor sports, going to and engaging in performing arts, and learning languages.
- The M.D. of Taber Park is the most commonly used recreation resource in the region among M.D. residents.
- Volunteering is a critical resource for recreation service provision within the community and the average M.D. household volunteers 55 hours per year (much of which occurs within the M.D.).
- Almost all survey respondents (94%) agreed that the M.D. should continue to financially support community recreation providers.

From the findings of the engagement and planning processes, various recommendations have been developed for the M.D. of Taber. These recommendations will be presented to the public for feedback and input through open houses and an online consultation process.

The online consultation process will occur between December 13, 2019 and January 3, 2020 and can be accessed at www.yourviews.ca/mdtaber.htm and the M.D. of Taber website.

In the new year, open houses for public consultation will be conducted throughout the M.D. Details for these open houses will be advertised in local newspapers and the M.D. of Taber website in the new year.

Locally Grown Certificate Opportunity from the MD of Taber

The MD of Taber Council and Agricultural Service Board recognize the high quality of products grown in this area, as well as the importance and growing popularity of locally grown agricultural products. In an effort to promote these products, the ASB has developed a "Locally Grown" certificate that farmers and producers can acquire. The document certifies that the agricultural product was proudly grown within the boundaries of the MD of Taber. Certificates are available through an online application process and are free of charge.

Locally grown food is better for your health, better for the environment, and the right choice to support local farmers and producers. The MD of Taber is home to many farms and ranches that produce a wide variety of products – from famous Taber corn to a long list of other fruits and vegetables, as well as grains, meat, dairy products and many other commodities that are grown here. Local products such as these are the freshest produce you can buy. It is picked when it is fully ripe and made available quicker than imported food. Purchasing locally produced food also contributes to the local economy.

The mission of the MD of Taber Agricultural Service Board includes the promotion and support of agriculture and agribusiness. This initiative is just one way in which the Agricultural Service Board and the MD Council are fulfilling that mission.

The "Locally Grown" certificate is easily obtained by filling out an application on the MD website, found at <https://www.mdtaber.ab.ca/p/proudly-grown>. An MD representative will verify that your produce is grown within the MD boundaries, and then a certificate will be issued. This service is rendered free of charge. After the certificate is issued, the grower will be added to a list available on the MD of Taber website showing consumers and visitors which producers are certified locally grown in the MD of Taber.

A logo indicating that the product is proudly grown in the MD of Taber can also be supplied to interested producers for placement on their own packaging.

For more information about this program you are welcome to contact the agricultural fieldman or assistant fieldman at 403-223-3142.





Well, the 2019 Taber Pheasant Festival is in the books, and by all accounts it was again a huge success and fun was had by all. A large thank-you goes out the impressive work of the festival's organizing committee to pull it all together, a truly monumental task. The festival encompasses many events including pheasant hunting opportunities for both novice and veteran shooters, culinary experiences, and a final banquet. The event was made possible by the many generous contributions from the festivals' extensive sponsorship group.

This is the 9th year the event has been held in Taber and it gets better every year as demonstrated by this years' statistics.

Hunting Statistics

- 81 Novice Shoot participants:
 - Saturday, October 19 (38 participants, mean age was 28 years old)
- Sunday, October 20 (43 participants, mean age was 26 years old)
- 803 hunters for the entire festival (722 hunters participated during the regular hunt from Monday, October 21 to Saturday, October 26)
- 40 exclusive landowners' sites were available for hunting during the festival
- 5,100 of pheasants were released

Event Statistics

- Game to Gourmet Culinary Event (Monday, October 21): 134 attendees (plus a wait list of 17 people)
 - 4 chefs (Sean Cutler, Nate Novick, Dean Arnold, and Ed Johnson) created 2 delicious dishes each (the pheasant macaroni and cheese made by Nate Novick was a big hit!)
- Scotch Tasting & Wing Wednesday (Wednesday, October 23): 80 attendees
- Heritage Inn Banquet & Silent Auction (Thursday, October 24): 400 attendees (including staff and volunteers)
 - 4 of the 6 raffle draws were sold out
 - 115 silent auction items from 66 sponsors
 - The 50/50 prize was \$1,000



Thanks to Everyone!

Thank you to the MD of Taber, our amazing sponsors, volunteers, and landowners for making the 9th Annual Taber Pheasant Festival (Oct. 19–26) a success.

And of course, thank you to the 800 hunters and novice shooters who came together in southern Alberta to celebrate conservation.



We look forward to seeing you all again in 2020 for the 10th anniversary of the **BIGGEST** hunting festival in Canada!





VDRWSC and Prairie Gold Produce Ltd. complete a water supply project

The Vauxhall and District Regional Water Services Commission (VDRWSC) and Prairie Gold Produce Ltd. (PGP) have recently completed a major water supply project, which will provide water to the PGP plant located east of the Town of Vauxhall. This was a joint project between business, community partners, the Municipal District of Taber and the Town of Vauxhall.

The \$2.65 million project involved the construction of a 7.2 kilometer raw water supply pipeline and pumping facility from a Bow River Irrigation District reservoir near the PGP plant to the VDRWSC water treatment plant and the construction of a 4 kilometer treated water pipeline to the PGP plant as well as construction of a new pump-house and water storage tank at the PGP plant site. The cost were shared 66% PGP (including all plant upgrades) and 34% VDRWSC. Approximately \$500,000 of the PGP costs were funded by a grant from the Industry Development Program of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

The Dehydration Division of Prairie Gold Produce is a potato processing company located in the M.D. of Taber employs 60 people. The PGP plant specializes in dehydrating potatoes to their granular level. In a highly specialized process the versatile product which is produced is used in food processing, snack foods and as an additive to other food products.



The PGP plant processes 60 million lbs. of raw product and produces approximately 10 million pounds of finished product annually with 90% marketed in the United States. In 2017 PGP received notification that standards for food products was going to be held to a higher standard and water treated to a higher standard was required in order to continue exporting to the United States.



Prairie Gold Produce Ltd. and the Vauxhall and District Regional Water Commission which provides water to the Town of Vauxhall and the M.D. of Taber entered into an agreement to provide potable water to the PGP plant. In order to facilitate non-irrigation season water use during the winter months a pipeline was constructed from a Bow River Irrigation District Reservoir to supply raw water to be treated by the VDRWSC water treatment facility, which will then be pipelined to the PGP plant.

In addition to the benefits to Prairie Gold Produce Ltd., this project will enable the VDRWSC plant to operate more efficiently and will lower the costs of water to the residents of both the Town of Vauxhall and the M.D. of Taber by spreading the fixed costs of operating the plant over a higher volume of water.

As one of only three plants in North America there is demand globally for the product that Prairie Gold Produce Ltd. manufactures. The PGP plant is a vital link in the potato industry chain of processing in Southern Alberta.





PUBLIC WORKS

Did you know that the Municipal District of Taber operates a dust suppression program?

In 2019 we applied dust suppression product for 176 residences totalling over 32 kilometers!

We also use this product as a stabilizing agent strategically at certain intersections, roadways and on hills to help prevent washboard roads and loss of gravel.

